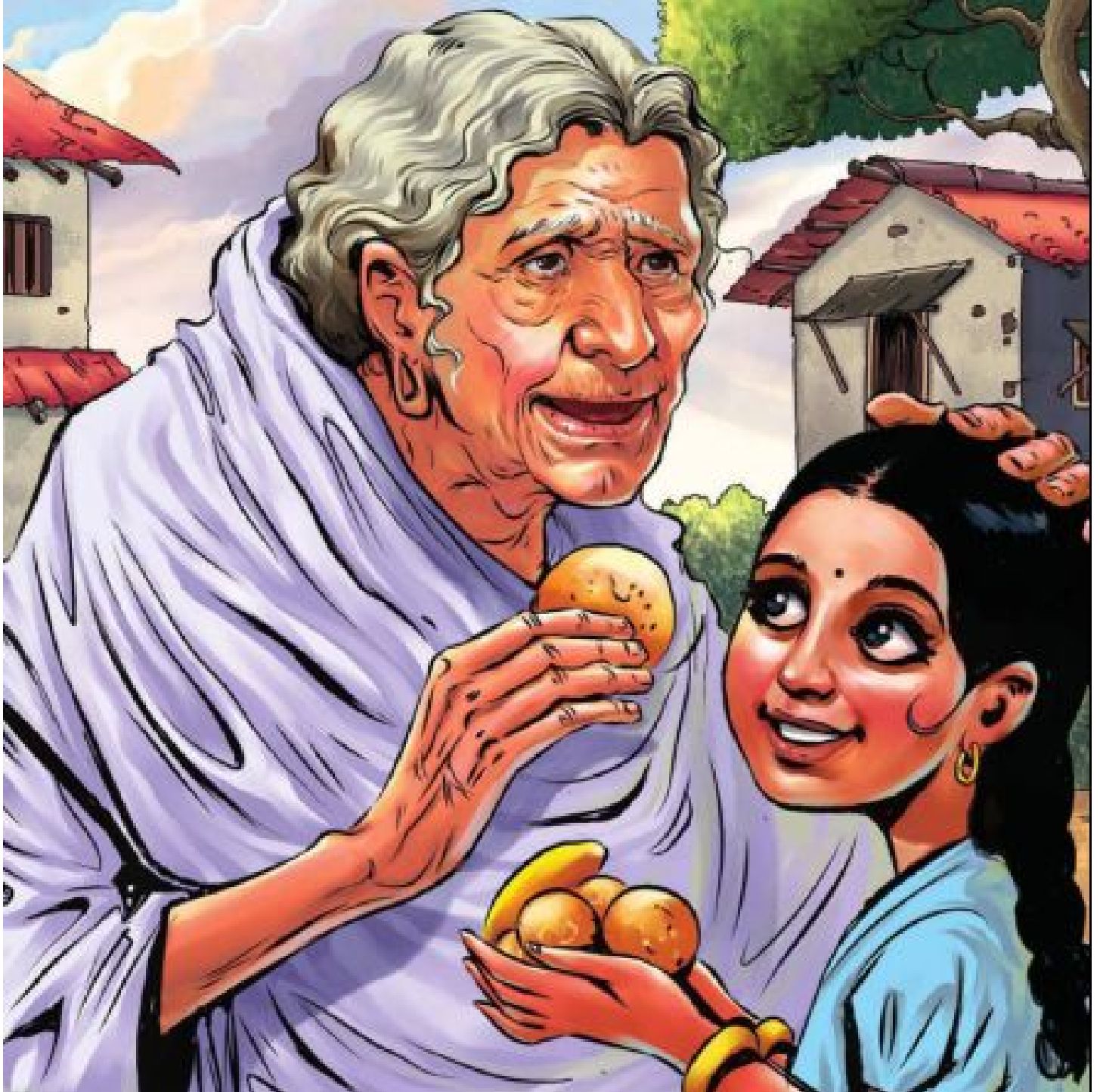
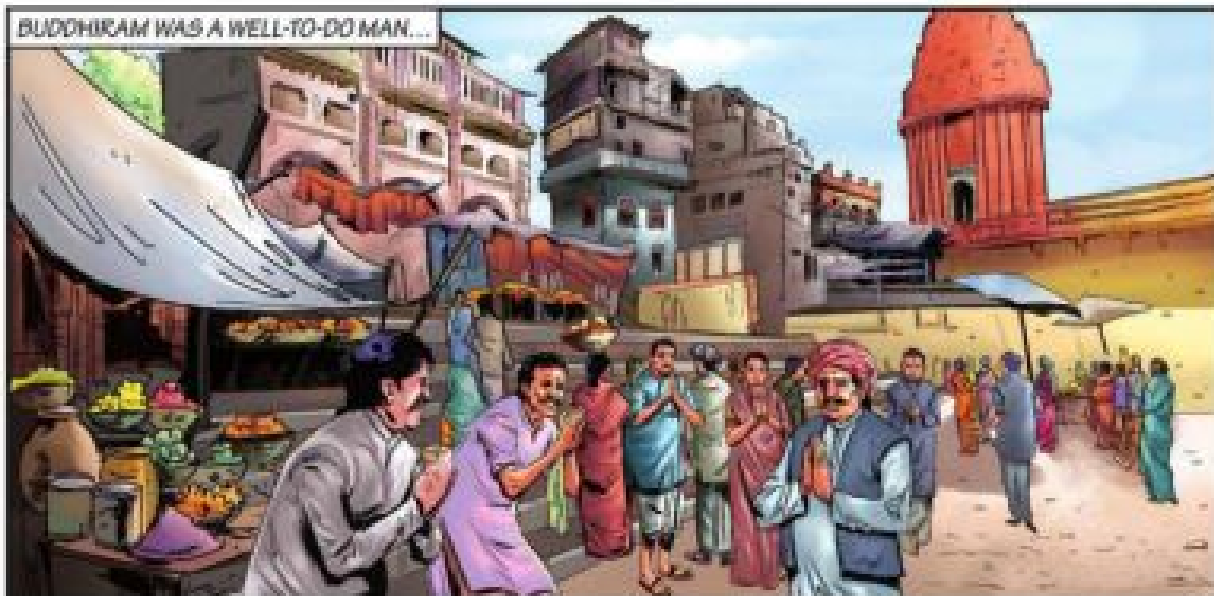


# **BUDHI KAKI** **OR** **THE AGED AUNT**



BUDDHIRAM WAS A WELL-TO-DO MAN...



...RESPECTED BY EVERYONE.



NAMASTE, BUDDHIRAMJI!

NAMASTE! PLEASE COME IN!

BUT ANYTHING THAT SHOWED HIM IN A BAD LIGHT MADE HIM REALLY ANGRY.



OH NO!

ONE OF THOSE REASONS WAS HIS AGED AUNT WHO LIVED WITH THEM.



KAKI! WHY ARE YOU CRYING SO LOUDLY? DO YOU WANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO HEAR YOU?

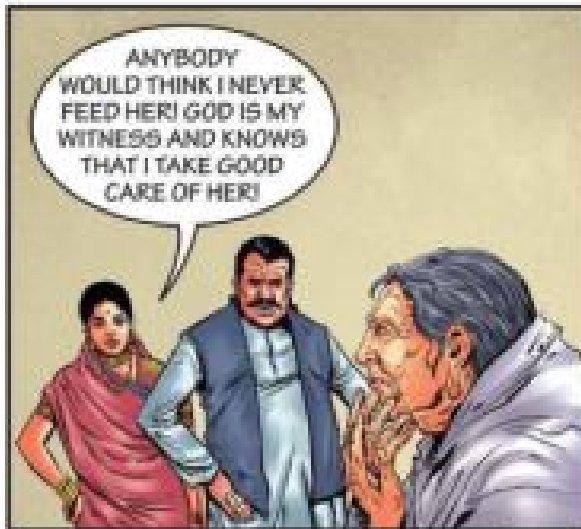
THE NOISE BROUGHT HIS WIFE, RUPA, THERE.



YOUR AUNT IS WORSE THAN THE CHILDREN. SHE BEGINS CRYING IF THERE IS THE SMALLEST DELAY IN SERVING HER MEALS.

KAKI, QUIET PLEASE!

\*FATHER'S BROTHER'S WIFE



ANYBODY WOULD THINK I NEVER FEED HER! GOD IS MY WITNESS AND KNOWS THAT I TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!



KAKI WAS SILENCED, BUT -

WAS I TOO HARSH ON KAKI? AFTER ALL, I AM IN THIS POSITION ONLY BECAUSE SHE GAVE ME ALL HER MONEY.



BUDDHIRAM REMEMBERED THE DAY KAKI HAD HANDED HIM HER WEALTH.

BUDDHIRAM, MY HUSBAND AND SONS ARE ALL DEAD.

YOU ARE ALL I HAVE. ALL MY WEALTH BELONGS TO YOU. WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR OLD KAKI?



KAKI, DON'T WORRY. AM I NOT YOUR SON? I PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU ALL MY LIFE.

BLESS YOU, BUDDHIRAM!

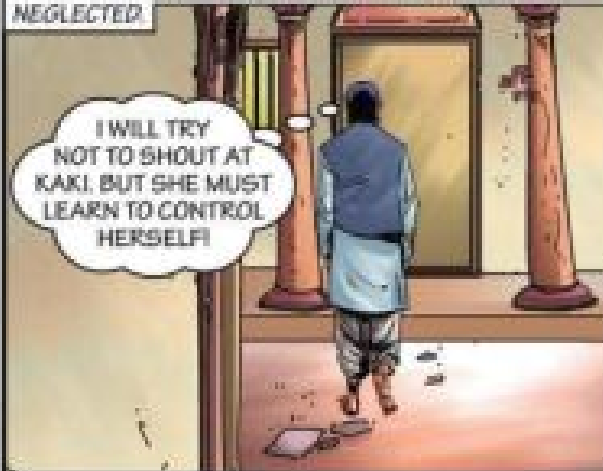


THE ARRANGEMENT HAD MADE EVERYONE HAPPY. THE EXTRA INCOME THAT CAME FROM KAKI'S PROPERTY WAS MOST WELCOME.

KAKI HAS COME TO STAY WITH US! HURRAH!

PLEASE COME IN, KAKI!

PROMISES ARE EASIER MADE THAN KEPT. BUDDHIRAM WAS NOT A BAD MAN BUT THE EFFORT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM. KAKI SOON FOUND HERSELF COMPLETELY NEGLECTED.



I WILL TRY NOT TO SHOUT AT KAKI, BUT SHE MUST LEARN TO CONTROL HERSELF!

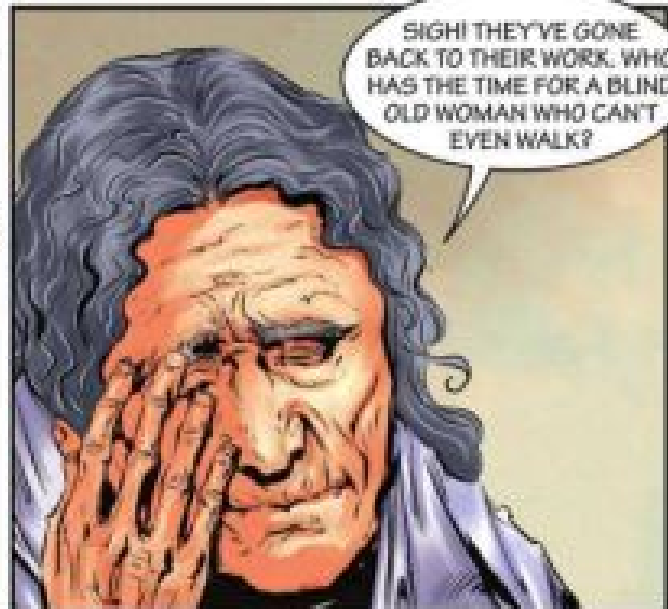


OH, GOD! FORGIVE ME FOR LOSING MY TEMPER AND GRANT ME GREATER PATIENCE!

IN KAKI'S ROOM -



I WAS HUNGRY, BUDDHIRAM! AND YOU KNOW THAT HUNGER IS THE ONE THING I CAN'T BEAR! BUDDHIRAM! RUPA!



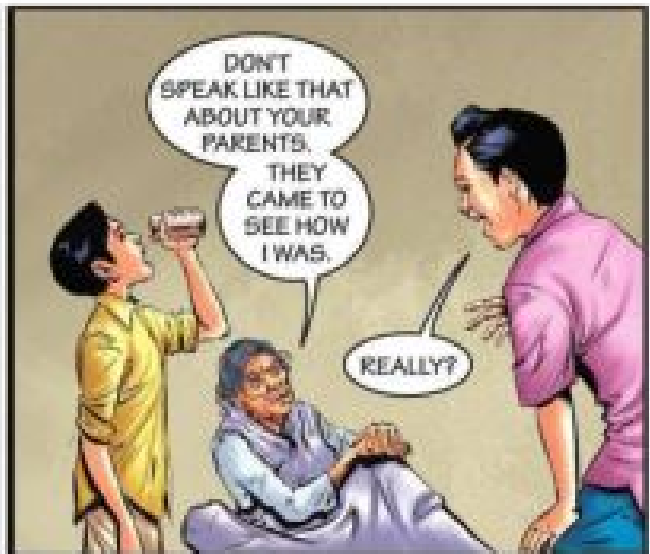
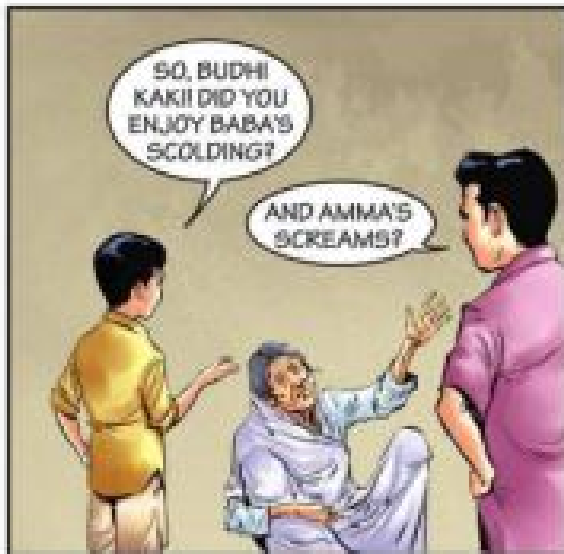
SIGH! THEY'VE GONE BACK TO THEIR WORK. WHO HAS THE TIME FOR A BLIND OLD WOMAN WHO CAN'T EVEN WALK?

JUST THEN -

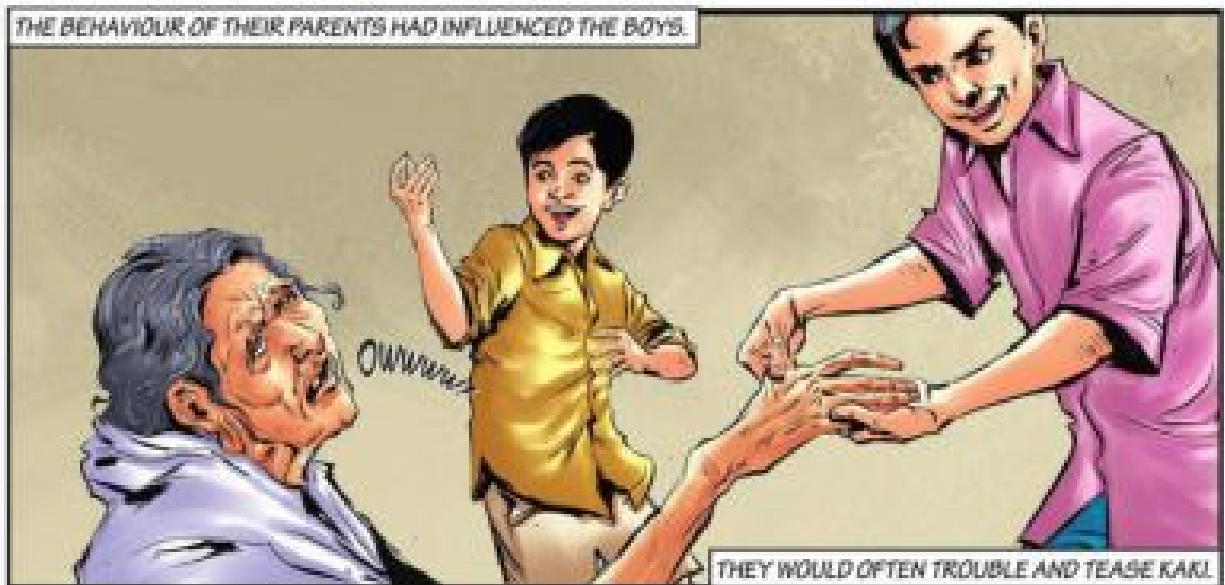


WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? LAADLI! IS THAT YOU, MY DARLING?

NO, IT IS NOT YOUR DARLING. IT IS I - MUKHIRAM!



THE BEHAVIOUR OF THEIR PARENTS HAD INFLUENCED THE BOYS.



BUDDHIRAM'S DAUGHTER WAS NOT LIKE HER BROTHERS.





GIVE ME SOME!

NO! GO GET YOUR OWN SHARE.



GO AWAY, YOU BAD BOYS! LEAVE LAADLI ALONE.

OR? WHAT WILL YOU DO, BUDHI KAKI?



DO? I WILL SCREAM SO LOUDLY THAT YOUR AMMA AND BABA WILL COME RUNNING. THEN WE'LL SEE HOW FAST YOU RUN!

YOU JUST WAIT, LAADLI!



HUHI! THEY CAN'T HURT ME WHEN I AM WITH YOU, KAKI.

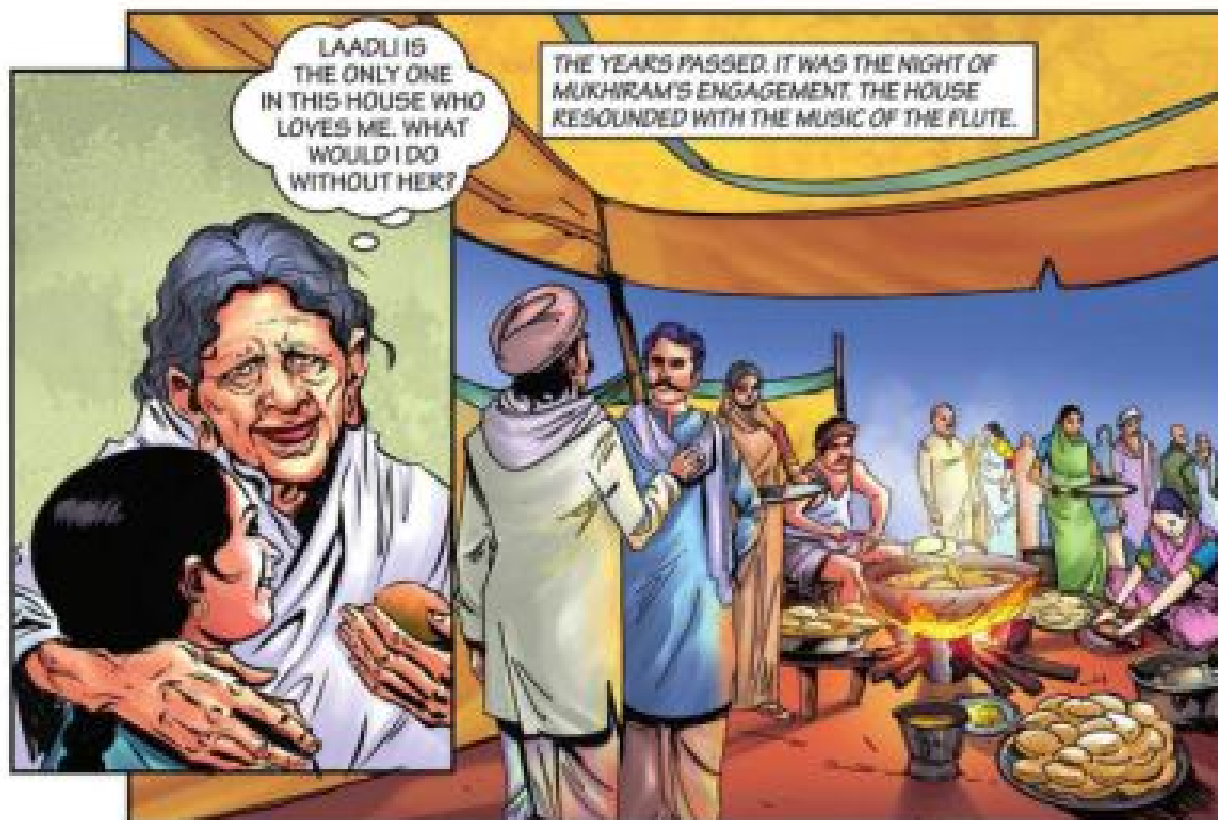
AS IF I WILL LET THEM. YOU COME TO ME, MY DARLING, IF THEY EVER BOTHER YOU.



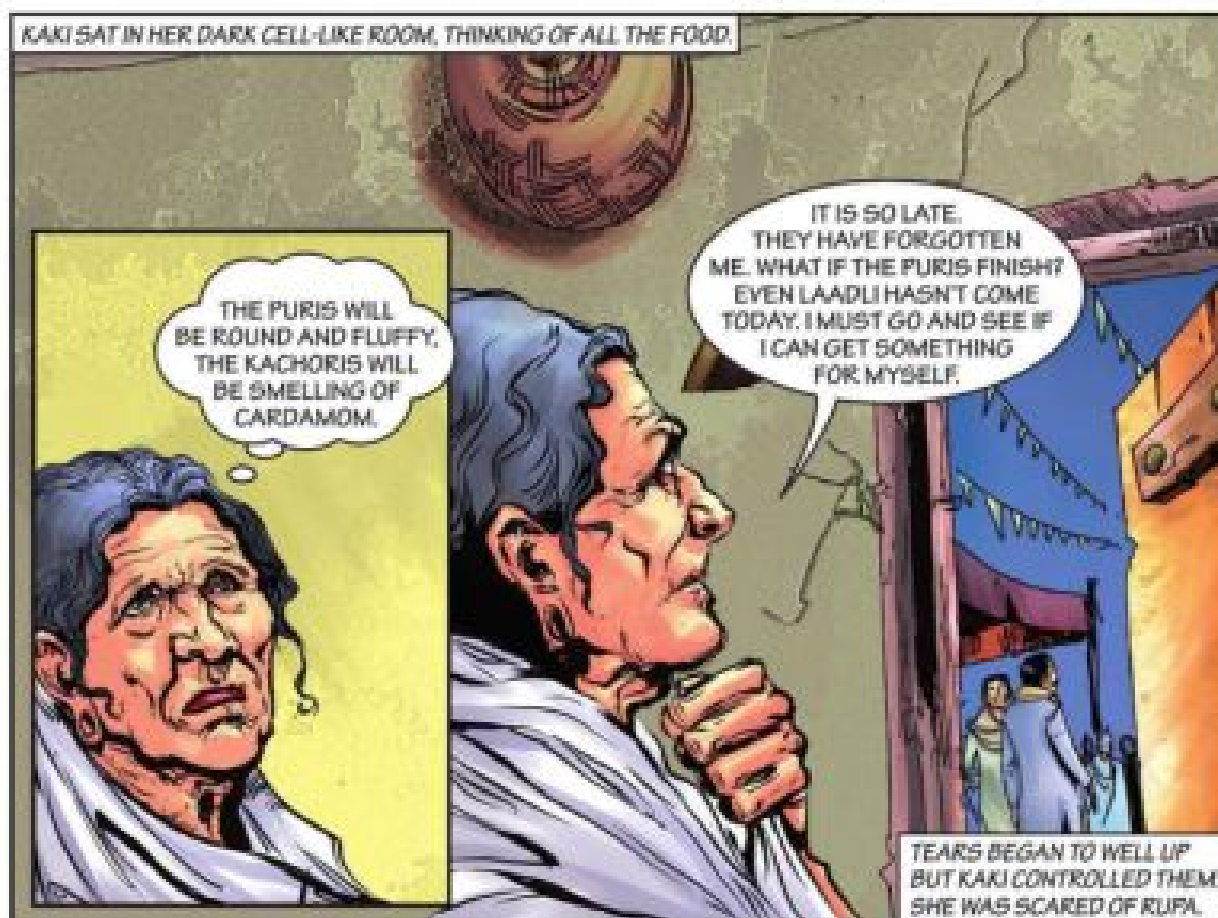
KAKI, LOOK! I'VE BROUGHT MY SWEETS TO SHARE WITH YOU.

BLESS YOU, CHILDI!

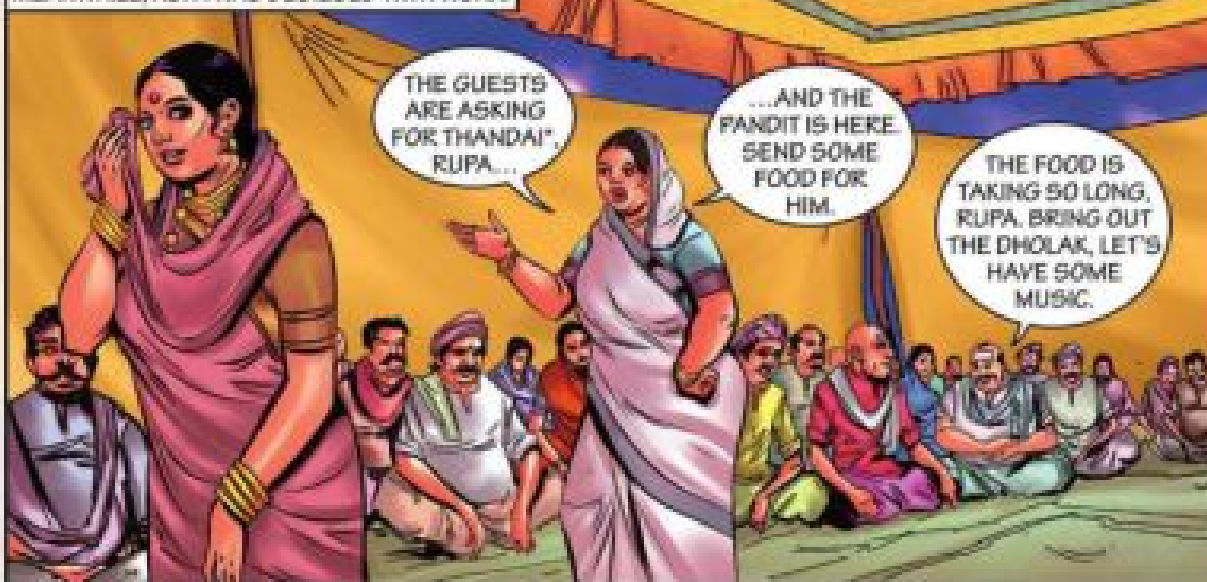




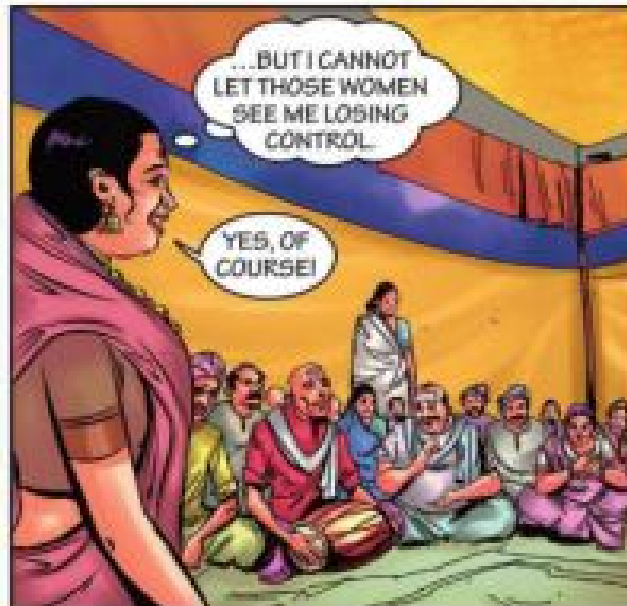
KAKI SAT IN HER DARK CELL-LIKE ROOM, THINKING OF ALL THE FOOD.



MEANWHILE, RUPA WAS BESIEGED WITH WORK.



RUPA WAS TRYING HER BEST NOT TO LOSE HER TEMPER.

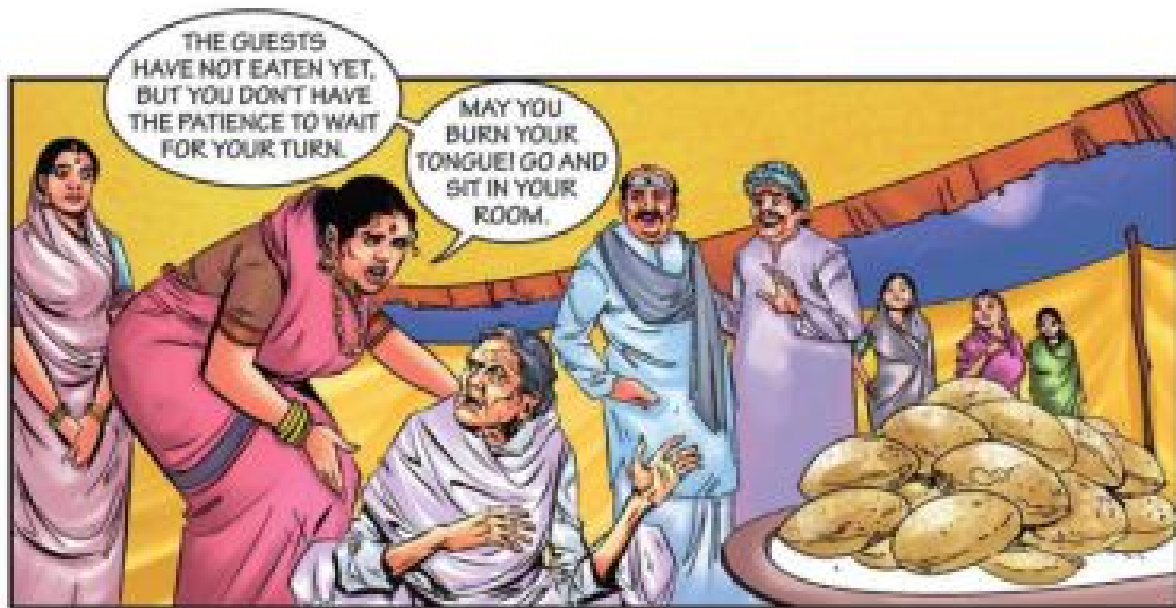


WHEN RUPA REACHED THE COOKING AREA -



\*A COLD DRINK PREPARED WITH MILK, ALMONDS, ROSE PETALS, ETC.





KAKI DID NOT LOOK UP.



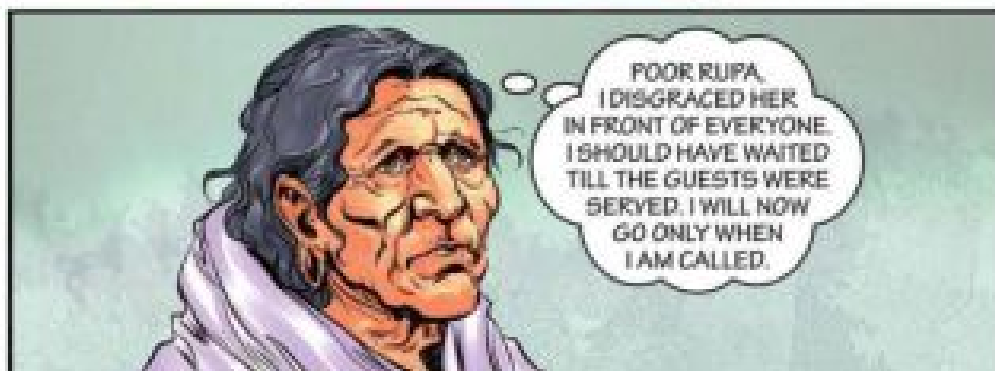
SHE TURNED AND QUIETLY CRAWLED BACK TO HER ROOM.



SHE SAT THERE WHILE THE GUESTS ATE...



...AND THE SERVANTS OF THE GUESTS ALSO SAT DOWN TO EAT.



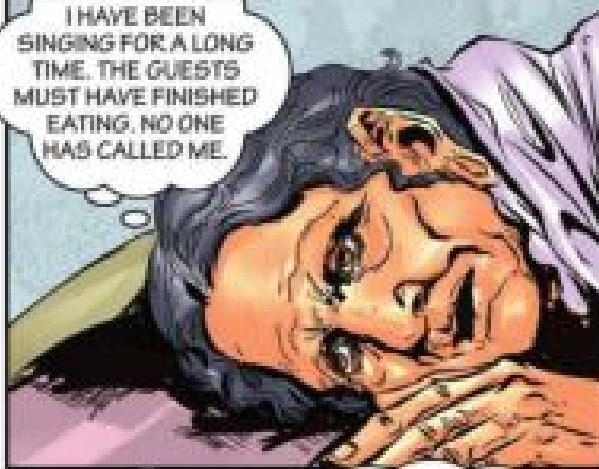
BUT KAKI'S THOUGHTS COULD NOT LEAVE THE COURTYARD.

THE PLATES  
MUST BE LAID FOR  
DINNER. THE GUESTS  
MUST BE WASHING UP,  
READY TO ENJOY  
THE FEAST.

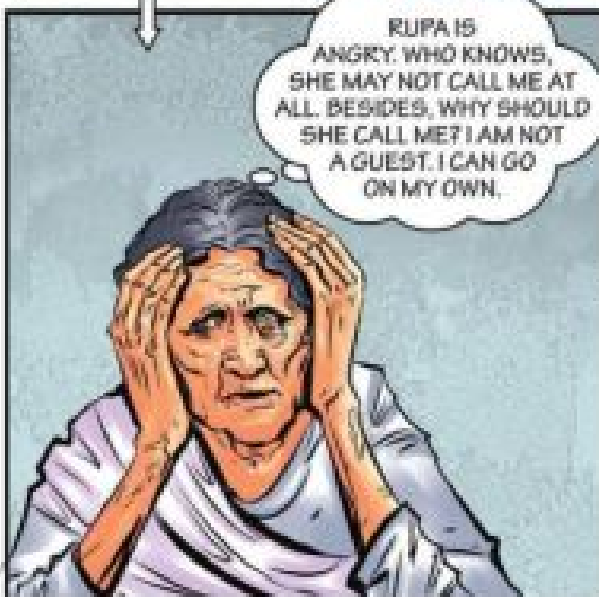


THE WOMEN BEGAN TO SING. KAKI HUMMED ALONG  
WITH THEM FOR A WHILE.

I HAVE BEEN  
SINGING FOR A LONG  
TIME. THE GUESTS  
MUST HAVE FINISHED  
EATING. NO ONE  
HAS CALLED ME.



RUPA IS  
ANGRY. WHO KNOWS,  
SHE MAY NOT CALL ME AT  
ALL. BESIDES, WHY SHOULD  
SHE CALL ME? I AM NOT  
A GUEST. I CAN GO  
ON MY OWN.



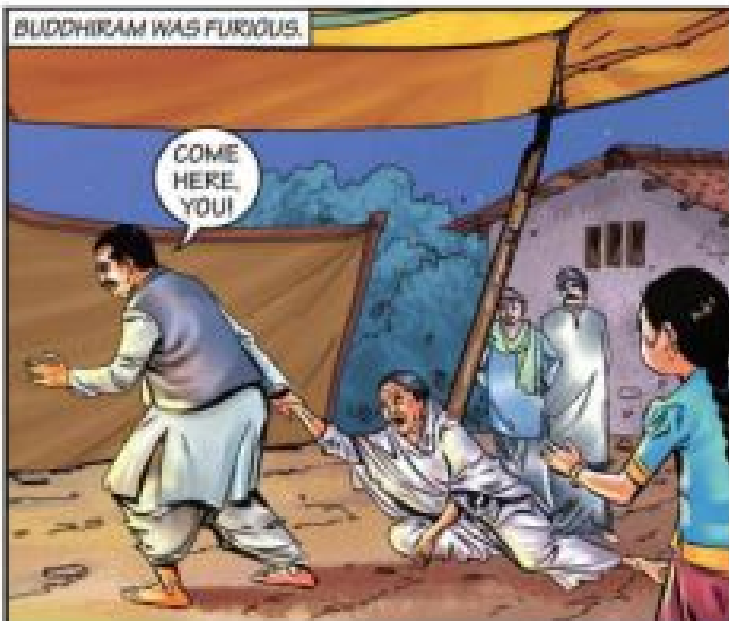
KAKI CRAWLED OUT ONCE MORE, BUT TO HER BAD LUCK,  
SHE HAD MISJUDGED AGAIN. THE GUESTS WERE STILL  
THERE.



WHO IS  
THIS OLD  
WOMAN?

LOOK  
OUT, SHE  
MAY TOUCH  
SOMEONE!

BUDDHIRAM WAS FURIOUS.



COME  
HERE,  
YOU!

WHY CAN'T WE  
GIVE KAKI LOTS  
OF PURIS TO EAT?  
WHY CAN'T SHE EAT  
BEFORE THE  
GUESTS DO?



AFTER THE GUESTS, THE FAMILY ATE AND THEN THE MUSICIANS,  
THE SERVANTS AND THE POOR PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE.



NO ONE CALLED KAKI. BUDDHIRAM AND RUPA HAD DECIDED TO PUNISH HER.

ONLY LITTLE LAADU WORRIED ABOUT HER.



I WILL KEEP  
MY PURIS AND  
GIVE ALL OF THEM  
TO KAKI AS SOON  
AS I CAN.

THEN SHE  
WILL HUG ME AND  
GIVE ME LOTS  
OF LOVE.



THE CLOCK STRUCK 11. EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP. THE FLICKERING SHADOWS SCARED LAADLI.



A DOG SLEEPING NEAR THE FIRE STRETCHED AND WALKED AWAY. LAADLI FELT BETTER.

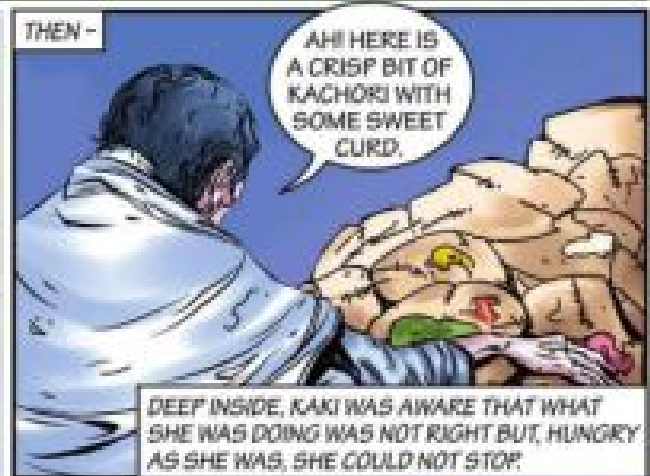


WHEN BUDDHIRAM HAD DRAGGED HER, KAKI HAD FAINTED. NOW, SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.



JUST THEN -





RUPA STIRRED IN HER SLEEP AND WOKE UP.



TEARS WELLED UP IN RUPA'S EYES. SHE WAS FILLED WITH FEAR AND SORROW.

MY HUSBAND'S AUNT IS EATING THE LEFTOVER FOOD FROM USED PLATES! DEAR GOD, FORGIVE ME! DO NOT PUNISH ME FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE.



I HAVE SPENT SO MUCH TO KEEP MY HONOUR AND PLACE IN SOCIETY, BUT I HAVE NOT TAKEN CARE OF THE WOMAN BECAUSE OF WHOM I WAS ABLE TO DO SO. AND I HAVE DONE THIS BECAUSE SHE IS OLD AND HELPLESS.





RUPA LIT A LAMP AND WENT TO THE STOREROOM.



THERE WERE ROWS AND ROWS OF THE FOOD AND SWEETS THAT HAD BEEN COOKED THAT DAY.



PICKING UP A LARGE PLATE, RUPA FILLED IT UP WITH THE CHOICEST DISHES.



TAKING IT OUTSIDE, SHE PUT IT DOWN ON A MAT. THEN -

GET UP, KAKI. COME AND EAT YOUR DINNER...

UHI!

...AND PRAY THAT I AM NOT PUNISHED FOR MY SIN. FORGIVE ME, FOR I HAVE WRONGED YOU GREATLY.

LIKE A CHILD WHO FORGETS A SCOLDING WHEN GIVEN A SWEET, KAKI FORGOT ALL THE WRONG DONE TO HER, AND SETTLED DOWN HAPPILY TO EAT. WITH ALL HER HEART, SHE BLESSED RUPA FOR HER KINDNESS.



RUPA SAT BEFORE HER WATCHING THE WONDERFUL SIGHT.

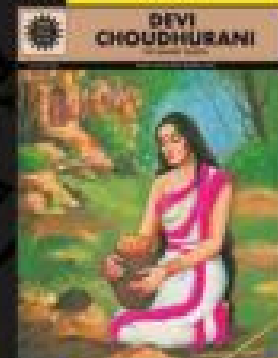
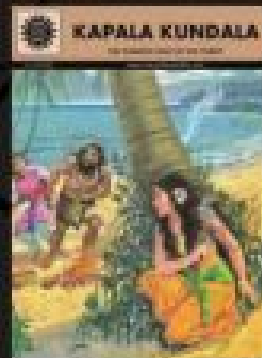
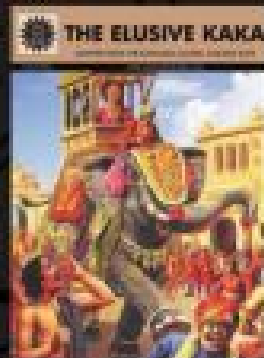
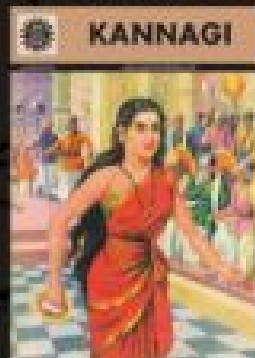
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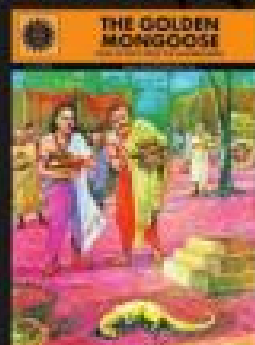
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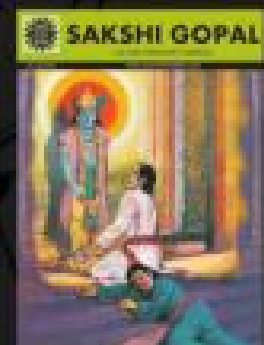
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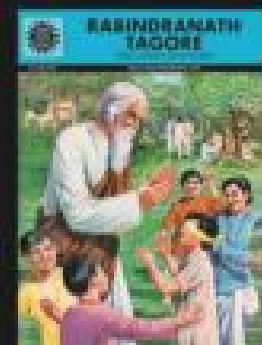
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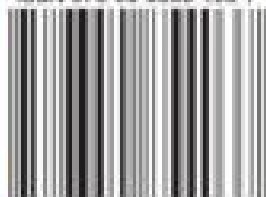
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